

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-41 (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) A machine-implemented method comprising:

receiving, at an authentication service, digital credential information associated with a first user from a relying party;

verifying that the digital credential information is valid using professional license status information that has been stored for a plurality of users;

providing verification information indicative of a valid professional license of the first user from the authentication service to the relying party; and

providing information from the authentication service to the first user, the information indicative of receipt of valid digital credential information from the relying party,

wherein the relying party is distinct from the first user.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein providing information to the first user comprises providing access to an activity log associated with the first user.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein:

the professional license status information comprises registration information indicative of a professional license registration status with a registration authority; and

the method further comprises, prior to providing the verification information to the relying party, verifying the registration information with the registration authority.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein:

the professional license status information comprises registration information indicative of a professional license registration status with a registration authority; and

the method further comprises verifying the registration information with the registration authority.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42,  
further comprising:

    storing access information associated with the relying party,  
    the access information including information indicative of the providing the verification information; and  
    providing the access information to the relying party.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42,  
further comprising providing information indicative of a failure to authenticate the digital credential information associated with the first user to a second relying party.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42,  
further comprising at least one of the relying party and the authentication service issuing a challenge in response to receiving digital credential information associated with the first user.

50. (Previously Presented) An article comprising a machine-readable medium embodying information indicative of instructions that when performed by one or more machines of an authentication service result in operations comprising:

receiving, at the authentication service, digital credential information associated with a first user from a relying party;

verifying that the digital credential information is valid using professional license status information that has been stored for a plurality of users;

providing verification information indicative of a valid professional license of the first user from the authentication service to the relying party; and

providing information from the authentication service to the first user, the information indicative of receipt of valid the digital credential information from the relying party, wherein the relying party is distinct from the first user.

51. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50, wherein providing information to the first user comprises providing access to an activity log associated with the first user.

52. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50, wherein:

the professional license status information comprises registration information indicative of a professional license registration status with a registration authority; and

the operations further comprise, prior to providing the verification information to the relying party, verifying the registration information with the registration authority.

53. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50, wherein:

the professional license status information comprises registration information indicative of a professional license registration status with a registration authority; and

the operations further comprise verifying the registration information with the registration authority.

54. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50, wherein the operations further comprise:

storing access information associated with the relying party, the access information including information indicative of the providing of the verification information; and

providing the access information to the relying party.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50, wherein the operations further comprise providing information indicative of a failure to authenticate the digital credential information associated with the first user to a second relying party.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:  
storage configured to store professional license status  
information for a plurality of users; and  
an authentication service configured to:  
receive digital credential information associated with  
a first user from a relying party;  
verify the digital credential information using the  
professional license status information;  
provide verification information indicative of a valid  
professional license of the first user to the relying party; and  
provide information to the first user, the information  
indicative of receipt of valid digital credential information  
associated with the first user from the relying party,  
wherein the relying party is distinct from the first user.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58,  
wherein the authentication service is configured to provide  
information to the first user at least by providing access to an  
activity log associated with the first user.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication information comprises registration information indicative of a registration status with a registration authority, and wherein the authentication service is further configured to:

verify the registration information with the registration authority prior to providing the verification information to the relying party.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein:

the professional license status information comprises registration information indicative of a professional license registration status with a registration authority; and

the authentication service is further configured to verify the registration information with the registration authority.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication server is further configured to:

store access information associated with the relying party, the access information including information indicative of the providing the verification information; and

provide the access information to the relying party.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication service is further configured to provide information indicative of a failure to authenticate the digital credential information associated with the first user to a second relying party.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication service is further configured to issue a challenge in response to receiving digital credential information associated with the first user.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising receiving, at the relying party, the valid digital credential information from an unauthorized user.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the information is provided from the authentication service to the first user in response to receipt of the valid digital credential information from an unauthorized user.

68. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50, wherein the information is provided from the authentication service to the first user in response to receipt of the valid digital credential information from an unauthorized user.

69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication server is configured to provide the information in response to receipt of the valid digital credential information from an unauthorized user.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, further comprising a relying party configured to receive the digital credential information associated with the first user and relay it to the authentication service.